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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	_ CONFIRMATION NO.	
09/530,253	04/26/2000	HENNING MAAB	PHD98.097	6706	
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CORPORATE PATENT COUNSEL			EXAMINER		
	TRONICS NORTH AM	WEISS, JOHN			
580 WHITE PL TARRYTOWN					
TARRITOWN	, N I 10391		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3629			
			DATE MAILED: 02/11/2003		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Application No.					7			
Examiner Bryon P. Gehman 3829 - The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ③ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Educations of town may be available under the provisions of 3° CPR 1.136(n). In an event, however, may a reply be threely filled If the period for reply is available under the provisions of 3° CPR 1.136(n). In an event, however, may a reply be threely filled If the period for reply is available under the provisions of 3° CPR 1.136(n). In an event, however, may a reply be threely filled If the period for reply is available under the provisions of 3° CPR 1.136(n). In an event, however, may a reply be threely filled If the period for reply is available under the provisions of 3° CPR 1.136(n). In an event, however, may a reply be threely filled If the period for reply is available under the provision of 3° CPR 1.136(n) in an event, however, may a reply the threely filled If the period for reply is available under the provision of 3° CPR 1.136(n) in an event, however, may a reply the threely filled If the period for reply is available under the provision of the threely filled threely filled. If the period for reply is available under the mailing data of this communication. A period for reply is available to the period of the communication. If a provision is FINAL. 2a)	• •	Application No.		Applicant(s)				
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Drawings

The proposed drawing correction and/or the proposed substitute sheets of drawings, filed on January 30, 2003 have been approved. A proper drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The correction to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang et al. (5,365,451). Disclosed is a locating system comprising a position-determining system and at least one data carrier (16) located in an area (central location of 18) including a position sensor (28), a transmitter and a receiver (26), an information unit (10 and 14) remote from each data carrier for storing area information (46, see col. 7, line 64 through col. 8, line 8) and transmitting the information to each data carrier (see col. 8, lines 51-55) and each data carrier transmits its position to the information unit only at initialization (see column 4, line 51 through column 5, line 21

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and claim 10) and movement from the area (see col. 3, lines 3-27, the Abstract and claim 11), and wherein a third party obviously can interrogate the information unit (employing the input devices and display terminals, see col. 4, lines 38-50) for the position of the at least one data carrier in order to keep the human workers knowledgeable of events as they occur.

As to claim 2, receiver (26) receives area boundaries (borders, see column 3, lines 46-61) and a memory (36) and a comparator (30) are disclosed.

As to claim 3, a method of locating is disclosed, which comprises a data carrier (16) receiving position data from a position-determining system (12), the data carrier transmits position data to an information unit (10 and 14), allocating the position data to an area in the information unit, and the boundaries (borders) are transmitted to the data carrier (via the gateway 14) and at movement of the data carrier (see column 3, line 28 through column 4, line 2) the current position is compared with the boundaries and new position data is transmitted to the information unit (10) only in case of a negative result of the comparison of the area boundaries transmitted by the information unit with the current position of the data carrier and wherein a third party obviously can interrogate the information unit (employing the input devices and display terminals, see col. 4, lines 38-50) for the position of the at least one data carrier in order to keep the human workers knowledgeable of events as they occur.

As to claim 4, the information unit stores the area data which is then used to allow tracking and allocating appropriate resources.

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Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4 have been considered but are most in view of the new ground(s) of rejection under 103. The provision of keyboards and display terminals at the gateway indicates human interaction is employed and such defines a third party. The human interaction to obtain information via these devices would have been obvious to keep the human employees of the network informed.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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Telephone inquiries regarding the status of applications or other general questions, by persons entitled to the information, should be directed to the group clerical personnel and not to the examiner. As the official records and applications are located in the clerical section of the examining Tech Center, the clerical personnel can readily provide status information without contacting the examiner. See MPEP 203.08. The Tech Center clerical receptionist number is (703) 308-1113.

In receiving an Office Action, it becomes apparent that certain documents are missing, e. g. copies of references, Forms PTO 1449, PTO-892, etc., requests for copies should be directed to Tech Center 3600 Customer Service at (703) 306-5771, or e-mail CustomerService3600@uspto.gov.

Any inquiry concerning the merits of the examination of the application should be directed to Bryon Gehman at telephone number (703) 308-3866. My work schedule is normally Tuesday through Friday from 6:30 am through 4 pm.

Should I be unavailable during my normal working hours, my supervisor John Weiss may be reached at (703) 308-2702. The FAX phone numbers for formal communications concerning this application are (703) 305-7687 and (703) 305-3597. Informal communications may be made, following a telephone call to the examiner, by an informal FAX number to be given.

Other possibly helpful telephone numbers are:

(703) 305-8322 Allowed Files & Publication (703) 308-9287 Assignment Branch (703) 305-8309 Certificates of Correction Drawing Corrections/Draftsman (703) 305-8404/8335 (703) 305-5125 Fee Ouestions Intellectual Property Questions (703) 305-8217 (703) 305-9282 Petitions/Special Programs Terminal Disclaimers (703) 305-8408 1-800-786-9199 Information Help Line

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 308-1113.

BPG

February 6, 2003

Bryon P. Gehman
Primary Examiner